



General Assembly

February Session, 2004

Amendment

LCO No. 3017

HB0552803017HDO

Offered by:

REP. WIDLITZ, 98th Dist.

To: Subst. House Bill No. 5528

File No. 331

Cal. No. 237

***"AN ACT CONCERNING MINOR REVISIONS TO THE
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION STATUTES."***

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. Section 26-55 of the general statutes, as amended by
4 section 3 of public act 03-192 and section 242 of public act 03-6 of the
5 June 30 special session, is repealed and the following is substituted in
6 lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

7 No person shall import or introduce into the state, or possess or
8 liberate therein, any live fish, wild bird, wild mammal, reptile,
9 amphibian or invertebrate unless such person has obtained a permit
10 therefor from the commissioner provided nothing in this section shall
11 be construed to require such permit for any [live fish, wild bird, wild
12 mammal, reptile amphibian or invertebrate] primate species that
13 weighs not more than fifty pounds at maturity that was imported [,
14 introduced into the state,] or possessed [or liberated] in the state prior
15 to October 1, 2003. Such permit may be issued at the discretion of the

16 commissioner under such regulations as the commissioner may
17 prescribe. The commissioner may by regulation prescribe the numbers
18 of live fish, wild birds, wild mammals, reptiles, amphibians or
19 invertebrates of certain species which may be imported, possessed,
20 introduced into the state or liberated therein. The commissioner may
21 by regulation exempt certain species or groups of live fish from the
22 permit requirements. The commissioner may by regulation determine
23 which species of wild birds, wild mammals, reptiles, amphibians or
24 invertebrates must meet permit requirements. The commissioner may
25 totally prohibit the importation, possession, introduction into the state
26 or liberation therein of certain species which the commissioner has
27 determined may be a potential threat to humans, agricultural crops or
28 established species of plants, fish, birds, mammals, reptiles,
29 amphibians or invertebrates. The commissioner may by regulation
30 exempt from permit requirements organizations or institutions such as
31 zoos, research laboratories, colleges or universities, public nonprofit
32 aquaria or nature centers where live fish, wild birds, wild mammals,
33 reptiles, amphibians or invertebrates are held in strict confinement.
34 Any such fish, bird, mammal, reptile, amphibian or invertebrate
35 illegally imported into the state or illegally possessed therein shall be
36 seized by any representative of the Department of Environmental
37 Protection and shall be disposed of as determined by the
38 commissioner. Any person, except as provided in section 26-55a, who
39 violates any provision of this section or any regulation issued by the
40 commissioner as herein provided shall be guilty of an infraction.
41 Importation, liberation or possession of each fish, wild bird, wild
42 mammal, reptile, amphibian or invertebrate in violation of this section
43 or such regulation shall be a separate and distinct offense and, in the
44 case of a continuing violation each day of continuance thereof shall be
45 deemed to be a separate and distinct offense."